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**Excelsior** being  
the Quarterly  
Magazine of  
James Murray's  
Royal Asylum  
Perth October  
1904

Special Number  
Dedication of  
New Chapel

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# EXCELSIOR

The Quarterly Magazine of James Murray's Royal Asylum

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VOL. XIV (NEW SERIES)

OCTOBER, 1904

No. 56

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IN the long course of this chronicle, which was inaugurated by Dr. Lauder Lindsay on the first day of January, 1857, we have had to relate many incidents of more or less interest. Our net has been cast widely, and the contents of our trawl have been of infinite variety. We now pass "from gay to grave, from lively to severe." On this occasion *Excelsior* is devoted to the news of yesterday, and the kindly comments of our brethren of the pen. The Dedication of the new Chapel is our only theme.

In 1821, when Mr. William Burn designed *The Murray* on the instructions of the original Trustees, he had explicit directions to include in the building a Chapel suitable for the establishment, and it was placed in the centre of the Asylum, next to the Board Room. In accordance with the usage of the time, a partition seven feet high divided the Chapel in two; for the idea of associating men and women in Asylums for worship, occupation, or amusement had not then been entertained.

The Annual Report for 1838 gives an account of the appointment of the first Chaplain, and the Directors in the following year state that "they have every reason to believe that his services have been of much advantage, and feel no hesitation in pronouncing their decided approval of the institution of this office." In 1858, it is recorded that the unseemly partition separating the sexes in Chapel had been removed. Consequent on the building of the Hospital Wings in 1887-88, the old Chapel was required for other purposes and a temporary place of worship was formed in the West Wing. It was apparent that such an arrangement was only tolerable as a makeshift; and the erection of a detached Chapel became more than ever desirable. How this has been accomplished will be evident on perusal of the following pages. It only remains to us to express our heartiest thanks to the many friends who have so generously helped us to attain our desire. Their encouraging and sympathetic letters will be preserved with the most valued records of the Institution, and the Chapel itself is the memorial of their good-will. Indeed, it stands in great measure as a thank-offering, and in that respect a worthy tribute to Mr. James Murray.

## DEDICATION OF CHAPEL

MICHAELMAS, 1904

## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

(The Rev. J. W. HENDERSON, B.D., Chaplain, officiating)

*Psalm 100**Prayer*

Almighty and Everlasting God, out of the multitude of Thy gifts we have raised this house to Thy name, that we may worship Thee in company, and learn to walk in Thy ways. And to Thee, the Refuge and Home of Thy children in all generations, we dedicate this house; that in it, in days to come, Thy children may worship Thee, and meditate on Thy goodness and truth; that in it they may learn to know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent; that here, in the peace and opportunity of the life that now is, and in the hope of the life that is to come, they may abound in love and helpfulness one toward another, and in trust and submission toward Thee, the Father of spirits and the Saviour of souls.

Almighty God, without whom nothing is strong and nothing is holy, accept our offering of gratitude, and have regard unto the desires of our hearts. Here may Thy name be ever hallowed. Here may Jesus Christ, Thy Son, be ever reverently owned as Lord and Saviour. Here may the messages of His truth and grace, the glad tidings of Thy fatherly and redeeming love, ever be faithfully proclaimed and thankfully received. Here may the Holy Spirit plead with Thy children, and not be grieved. Here may they who fear be encouraged, the tempted find succour, and they who doubt have their better trusts and hopes confirmed. Here may the careless be awakened to a sense of their folly and guilt, and to timely repentance. Here may oppressed and striving souls be assured of the mercy that triumphs over sin, and receive help to go on their way rejoicing.

Blessed and Eternal Lord, in the deepest reverence for Thy glory do we dedicate this house to Thy worship. And we pray that through the influence of the services in which Thy children shall join here, every place and day and duty may be more and more felt by them to be sacred, and the wide earth none other but the house of God and the gate of heaven. AMEN.

*Old Testament Reading—PSALM 84*

(The Rev. D. W. KENNEDY)

*Hymn 329*

In the name which earth and heaven  
Ever worship, praise, and fear.

*New Testament Reading—HEBREWS 9, 1-14*

(The Very Rev. the DEAN OF ST. ANDREWS)

*Prayer*

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who hast commanded us to make intercession for all men, hear us while we pray.

We pray for our native land, that in us all the nations of the earth may be blessed.

We pray for our King and Queen ; and for all our rulers, judges, and magistrates, that they may be endowed with the spirit of wisdom and righteousness.

We pray for the whole body of the people, that they may be sober and pure, righteous and reverent.

We pray for all who profess and call themselves Christians, that they may be led to the right understanding and practice of their holy faith.

We pray for the poor and ignorant, the weak and the lonely ; the sick and the afflicted and the dying ; and for all who are troubled in mind, that Thy grace may be sufficient for them in their time of need.

We pray for the tempted and the unbelieving ; the vicious and all in bondage to sinful passions and the evil ways of the world, that Thy mercy may be their salvation.

We pray for all mankind, that they may be united in the fear and love of Thee.

God be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us. Let the people praise Thee, O God ; let all the people praise Thee. AMEN.

*Anthem 188*

God is a Spirit ; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. For the Father seeketh such to worship Him.

*Excelsior**Sermon*

St. Luke 18, 14—I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other.

(The Rev. J. ROBERTSON, D.D.)

*Prayer*

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. AMEN.

*Hymn 143*

Through the night of doubt and sorrow  
Onward goes the pilgrim band.

*Benediction*

(The Rev. P. R. LANDRETH)

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## THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DAY

An important and impressive ceremony was witnessed at Murray's Royal Asylum on Thursday, 29th September, 1904, when the new chapel was solemnly dedicated and the new villas adjoining were formally opened. The function was attended by a large number of the subscribers to the Chapel Fund, including the Directors, Lord Provost and Magistrates, Clergymen and Friends of the Institution. The ministers, issuing from the Robing Room preceded by Dr. Urquhart, marched in processional order to the Chapel, followed by the Lord Provost and Magistrates in their civic robes and chains of office, while the Directors brought up the rear. Mr. F. S. Graves presided at the organ, with an efficient choir. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. W. Henderson, parish minister of Kinnoull and Chaplain of the Institution, the Rev. P. R. Landreth, of the West Parish Church, Perth, acting as Moderator. The lessons were read by the Rev. D. W. Kennedy, of the Middle U.F. Church, Perth, and the Very Rev. the Dean of St. Andrews, while Dr. Robertson, Methven, preached a most eloquent and appropriate sermon.

The service lasted about an hour, and at its conclusion the large company adjourned to the "Browne Gallery" recreation hall, where a sumptuous repast, purveyed by Mr. Hewat, Windsor Restaurant, was served. Lord Mansfield, Chairman of the Institution, presided, and the others present included—Lord Provost Love, Dean of Guild M'Nab, Mr. A. Moyes, Mr. John Thomas, Sir Robert Pullar, Major Mercer, Mr. Adam Steel of Blackpark, Mr. A. Macduff of Bonhard, Mr. George Gray, Bowerswell, Mr. R. D. Pullar, Bailies Barlas, Chalmers, and Keiller; Treasurer Lawrie; Mr. John Begg, Town Clerk; and Mr. Robert Keay, City Chamberlain; ex-Bailie Wood, Moderator of the Perth Society of High Constables; the Rev. J. M'Glashan Scott, the Rev. W. A. Knowles, of Grangemouth, the Rev. F. H. Martin; Sir James Crichton-Browne, Lord Chancellor's visitor; Dr. Stirling, Dr. Robert Stirling, Mrs. Haultain, Miss Stirling, Dr. Paton, Dr. Taylor, Dr. A. Trotter, Dr. Hume, Messrs. C. Alexander, Anderson, Buchan, Brydson, Cairncross, Cameron, Crawford, Frazer, Fenwick, Frew, R. Hay Robertson, Dawson, Wotherspoon, Gray, Gow, Gloag, Halley, Miller, Morgan, Watson, Fernie, MacLeish, Thomson, M'Nicoll, Noad, Rutherford, Bryson, Robertson, Morton, Anderson, M'Lauchlan, M'Ritchie, Messrs. Maclaren & Mackay, architects; Dr. Urquhart, Mr. Geo. A. Mackenzie, solicitor; Dr. Alcock, Dr. Ritchie, Messrs. Sim, Henry, J. Whittet, Whyte, M'Farlane, &c.

Apologies for absence were received from Lord Kinnaird, Lord

Kincairney, Mr. J. M. MacKinlay, Sheriff Jameson, Sheriff Sym, Bailie Hardie, Mr. H. Macduff-Duncan, Mr. R. Kinloch, W.S. ; Mr. W. H. Cox of Snaigow, Mr. A. Butter, Mr. A. E. Pullar, Rev. A. Sutherland, Rev. A. M. Snadden, Rev. W. E. Lee, Dr. Fraser, Commissioner in Lunacy ; Mr. T. W. L. Spence, the Right Hon. A. Graham Murray, Secretary for Scotland ; Mr. R. Wallace, M.P. ; Mr. T. R. Buchanan, M.P. ; Dr. Murray Lindsay, Mr. Syme, Mr. J. Macgregor, &c.

After luncheon the Chairman called upon Dr. Urquhart, who said he wished to say one word of grateful thanks to the subscribers for establishing and completing the Chapel which had now been dedicated. Many were unable to be present, and he had a long list of letters of apology with which he would not detain them. He would, however, quote from three letters, which were representative of all. Dr. Fraser, Commissioner in Lunacy, said : "It is most gratifying that so many of your past and present patients have contributed to the cost of erecting the Chapel. It is therefore largely a monument of gratitude." Dr. Murray Lindsay, who acted as physician here during 1862, wrote : "Nothing would have given me greater pleasure than to see the new Chapel and the old place with its associations to me so dear and never to be forgotten. I heartily sympathise with your efforts, and congratulate you on the completion of the Chapel, which could not have been accomplished without an enlightened and liberal Board of Directors." Mr. James Ritchie, C.E., long a valued adviser, and a Director, wrote : "I am sure it must be a great and constant gratification to you, these wonderful improvements on so beneficial an Institution—the extent and value of which only such old stagers as Mr. John Dickson and myself can fully appreciate." Dr. Urquhart concluded by intimating to the subscribers the gratifying fact that the Chapel had been opened practically free of debt.

After the loyal toasts had been honoured, Lord Mansfield called for the toast of the day.

Sir James Crichton-Browne in proposing "James Murray's Royal Asylum," said—My Lords and gentlemen, I recall that when some forty years ago I accompanied my father, who was then a Commissioner, on an official circuit in Perthshire, I visited Strath Fillan and the little rugged, ruined chapel there which was so long a shrine for the cure of the mentally deranged, to which those stricken with madness in this district in bygone times were carried after being dipped in

"St. Fillan's blessed well,  
Whose spring can frenzied dreams dispel,  
And the crazed brain restore,"

and were left bound hand and foot before the altar all night to recover, if that might be, their mental composure and lucidity. Well, I find myself in Perthshire again to-day, to visit a chapel dedicated to the service of the mentally deranged, and I cannot, under such circumstances, but be struck, on the one hand by the changes that time has wrought, and on the other by the indestructible and eternal human beliefs and emotions that underlie all changes. The chapel, in the dedication of which we have taken part to-day, is, I think all will admit, a very beautiful structure, appropriate in the simplicity and harmony of its design to the special purpose it is intended to fulfil, reflecting the highest credit on its medical architect, Dr. Urquhart—who we might think, did we not know the distinction he has attained in the line he has chosen, had mistaken his profession—very different from the little primitive, rude stone edifice at Strath Fillan. Although remembering what Ruskin said about the west window in Dunblane in its clustered loveliness of contour copied from the forest leaf, I am not going to suggest that an improvement in architecture is one of the changes on which we have to congratulate ourselves in these days. No! the changes that present themselves to my thoughts are not structural or outward or material. They are changes in our attitude towards that afflicted class for whom relief was sought at St. Fillans, and will be sought in the chapel here. They are changes not made with hands, but growing out of an intellectual movement which has revolutionised our treatment of the insane, substituting science for superstition, kindness for cruelty. In the old days, when St. Fillans was in vogue, insanity was regarded as the work of the devil or a sort of demoniacal possession, and those suffering from it, if not cured by the rites of exorcism, somewhat sternly applied, were treated like wild beasts, starved, bound, beaten, done to death, or caged in noisome cells, where they were littered on straw, exposed to cold and hunger and to nameless barbarities by their keepers, and sometimes exhibited to gratify public curiosity. Up till one hundred years ago—and it is only a little over a hundred years ago that Pinel, in the very darkest midnight of the Reign of Terror, lighted the torch of humanity that has since kindled such widespread illumination by liberating the lunatics in the Bicetre—up till a hundred years ago, aye, and till a much more recent time, the lot of the insane was shocking and deplorable. But how changed is the scene! The insane are now the objects of peculiar solicitude and care. They are housed in palaces, surrounded by comfort and luxury, sheltered from annoyance, nursed with skill, tended with sympathetic assiduity, while no effort is spared to promote their recovery or ameliorate their condition. (Applause.) And what has brought about this trans-

formation? I do not hesitate to answer, Science! medical science! No doubt a powerful impulse to benevolent reform has been given from time to time by great philanthropists like Daniel Tuke and Lord Shaftesbury, but whoever will look critically into the history of the treatment of the insane must feel satisfied that all genuine steady progress in it has been due to the recognition of insanity as a disease amenable to remedial measures, medical and hygienic, and to the gradual consequent conversion of madhouses into hospitals and sanatoria. We know now that insanity is not a Satanic cantrip or bewitchment, but a bodily disease, a brain disease dependent on tissue degeneration or functional disorder of that organ. But strong in this knowledge and zealous in its practical application, we must never lose sight of the fact that insanity is after all a duplex disease, involving not merely cerebral changes but mental obscurations. We must bear in mind that it may be brought on by the abusive employment of the faculties, feelings, and appetites of which the mind is composed, and that it may be rectified by moral influence brought to bear upon the unsteady or reeling brain, and restoring it to equilibrium. What is called the moral treatment of insanity, that is to say, the bringing to bear upon the morbid mind of novel, wholesome, distracting, mental impressions, has never been neglected in Scotland—indeed, Scotland has always taken the lead in that matter—but I am not sure that hitherto the fullest possible advantage has always been taken of sacred associations. There has been a fear that these might do more harm than good, that there might be danger in appeals to the deepest and most perturbing emotions of our nature, and so chapel has not always been all that it ought to have been—the chaplain has sometimes been relegated to the background, and ecclesiastical observance subordinated to pathological observation. (Laughter.) This is a materialistic age in which we have been living. The splendid achievements of physical science have dazzled us and blinded us somewhat to the things of the spirit, but it is physical science that is now leading us back step by step to idealistic conceptions. Again in our search after reality we find ourselves in that mysterious region where matter and force merge into each other, the shadowy realm between the known and the unknown. Again in our bewilderment we realise that there are other illusions besides those of madness, and amidst the deceptions of sense grasp for support at those old beliefs transcending experience—(applause)—

“That through this weary pilgrimage  
Have all our fathers led.”

These old beliefs have fluctuated from time to time. Now they have burnt up brightly: anon they have flickered in the socket, but they



have never gone out altogether. And were they to do so, perhaps the best thing that could happen would be for some ingenious Japanese to invent a new explosive that would blow up the world, leaving but a wreck of lifeless asteroids. (Laughter and applause.) But these old beliefs are indestructible and eternal in the human breast. They it was that in mirky distortion dictated the night vigils at St. Fillans; they it is that in their clarity have built up this chapel here; they it is that must impart to this chapel its power of usefulness. (Applause.) I do not doubt that this chapel will exert a beneficial effect on those who are brought to worship in it. Say what we may, we are all dominated by external impressions, and love that which is fair and seemly, rather than that which is ugly and uncouth. We are all soothed and solemnised by fair and seemly impressions, especially when these are blended with sacred sentiment and tender associations. And so those sorrowing and suffering and distraught beings who will here bend the knee or raise the voice in the song of praise, will sometimes draw from their surroundings consolation, encouragement, a sense of tranquillity and hope. A suitable casket has been provided for the teachings which will be given here, which will, it is to be hoped, not only touch many hearts but be as balm in Gilead to many wounded brains. The decay of faith and the ethical weakness that invariably accompanies it, have been responsible, I believe, for some part of that increase of insanity we deplore. The lamp of faith kept alive in this place may help in some measure to dissipate the darkness of insanity. But the chapel has not only a future but a past to which I must allude. It is not only a house of hope, but a memorial and a thankoffering. Round a nucleus of £177, the remainder of the estate of a lady long resident in the asylum, subscriptions from all quarters have been gathered in, many coming from the friends of patients, rich and poor, in grateful acknowledgment of benefits received, many from comparative strangers in recognition of public services rendered. The chapel is therefore a perpetual testimonial to the good work done by the Institution, a standing answer to any captious critics who might be inclined to find fault with the policy pursued. Very touching, I believe, have been the letters, in which the subscriptions received from former patients have been wrapped, expressing the kindly feelings which those who have been sheltered here in storm and stress retain for their harbour of refuge when fair weather has returned. The subscriptions, amounting to £750, have provided the chapel seated for 100 as we see it to-day, but it is capable of enlargement by transepts, and I understand that at the present moment Dr. Urquhart is not above accepting an organ and a clock should anyone feel disposed to complete its furnishings by these donations. (Laughter.) The chapel has so filled my thoughts that

I have said nothing of the noble and venerable Institution of which it is an integral part, noble in the good work it has accomplished, venerable in its length of service. Regarding it, permit me to say a few words. Murray's was founded in 1827, and has therefore for seventy-seven years ministered to the wants of the country. At first receiving patients of all classes, those supported by the State as well as those supported out of private means, it was on the opening of the District Asylum at Murthly, set apart for the work originally contemplated by its founder, and devoted, not to the relief of the rate-payers, but to the relief of persons and families of the middle class afflicted by mental disease, and in this role it has been an inestimable boon to Scotland at large, and especially to the district in which it is placed. At the time when pauper patients were removed from it, the Asylum was in low water. Those patients who remained, although above the pauper class, many of them persons of culture and refinement, paid only pauper rates of board (somewhere about £30 a year), and the work of the Institution was crippled by its poverty. When Dr. Urquhart took the helm, he saw at once that another tack was necessary if shipwreck was to be avoided, and so without delay started on a course that has proved eminently successful. He made the Asylum attractive to the affluent classes, he drew into it patients paying higher rates of board, he applied the reasonable profits derived from their maintenance to the extension of the charitable purposes of the Institution and to its enlargement and improvement, and the result is that at his semi-jubilee to-day he is able to report that, while the income when he entered on office twenty-five years ago was £4400, it is now £14,000 per annum, while at the same time the benevolent help extended to the indigent is greater than it was under the old regime. And while this has been going on, the Institution has been practically reconstructed from top to toe, every modern improvement in asylum construction has been introduced into it, succursal villas have been acquired, and it is now complete, a model of what a high-class and middle-class asylum ought to be. I know of no better appointed or managed asylum of its class. (Applause.) Murray's has always been fortunate in the men who have presided over its destinies. Dr. Malcom, its first physician, a man of great ability and force of character, with a large practice in Perth, afforded judicious guidance to the Directors in its early days, and I am interested to hear that it is his daughter, unhappily unable to be here to-day, who has presented the communion table to the new chapel. Dr. Sherlock, the first resident Medical Superintendent, did yeoman's service until his removal to Worcester, and Dr. Lauder Lindsay, who succeeded him, was highly gifted in many ways and devoted to his duties, to which he may almost be said to have sacri-

ficed his life, for he died soon after his retirement in 1879. I knew Dr. Lauder Lindsay well—one of the gentlest and at the same time most energetic of beings, full of originality and geniality too. An accomplished naturalist and botanist, he did not allow what were his predominant tastes and predilections to interfere with his professional work, but did a great duty to Murray's. He stuck to it through its bad times, and it was under him that the work of reconstruction was begun. I well remember being his guest here on Whit Monday in the year 1857, when I walked from Glenalmond to spend that holiday with him, and took part in a cricket match with the patients, under circumstances of exquisite torture, for my feet were horribly blistered by the long walk of ten miles in tight boots, a state of matters which I thought it would be unbecoming the dignity of a Glenalmond boy to confess. (Laughter.) Dr. Lauder Lindsay is represented here to-day by his daughter, Mrs. Haultain, who has given the central chancel window to the chapel, and by his brother-in-law, who is so highly esteemed by his professional brethren and the public. (Applause.) Following upon Dr. Lauder Lindsay comes my old and excellent friend, Dr. Urquhart, who has splendidly maintained the best traditions of Murray's and enormously extended its usefulness. (Applause.) He is a man who takes an exalted and comprehensive view of his mission, and enlists in the service in which he is engaged all things both great and small, from "the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that groweth out of the wall." (Laughter.) Of Dr. Urquhart's administrative ability and grasp of every minute detail of domestic economy I need not speak, for these must be as well known to many here present as they are to me. But to his medical and scientific attainments I am entitled to testify, and as to these I would say that it is surprising to note how perfectly he has kept himself abreast of all the rapid advances that have taken place in scientific medicine. (Applause.) Most men who have reached middle life and begun to put on flesh—(laughter)—lose their zest for forced marches, and are inclined to lag behind or entrench themselves in a fixed position. Not so, Dr. Urquhart! He is, and always has been, amongst the foremost in the scientific wing of his profession, and so has been able to give his patients the benefit of every new addition made to the healing art of solid and assured value, while he has, by his writings and journalistic labours, aided and abetted original research into the nature and causes of disease. (Applause.) Beyond all this, appreciative of the subtle influence of art, Dr. Urquhart has developed a system of æsthetical therapeutics, and sought by beautiful and refined impressions to banish the "horrid shapes and sights unholy" that haunt the reason-deserted brain. Higher still—recognising the power and potency of

that essential element in man's nature we call religiosity, that element that distinguishes him from the brutes that perish, that by the nodes in its growth has marked every stage in his ascent in the scale of humanity, that is the supreme and terminal crown of evolution—recognising this, Dr. Urquhart avails himself, as a physician, of the assuagements and sustainments that religion offers, and welcomes this chapel as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace that will, it is to be hoped, pervade this Institution with healing on its wings. (Applause.) But if Murray's has been fortunate in its medical heads, it has not been less fortunate in the Directors who have controlled its management. The most active business men, the public men, the philanthropic men of the county and city have given to it unstintingly of their time and labour. It would take long to enumerate the good men and true who have helped it. I may mention, however, that Mr. Macduff-Duncan for many years never missed a weekly meeting, and that Mr. John M. Miller, Dr. Bower, Sir Robert Pullar, Mr. John Thomas, and many others have been its friends and benefactors. (Applause.) Fortunate again is Murray's in having as its chairman the Earl of Mansfield, who presides over us this afternoon. (Applause.) Lord Mansfield succeeded his father as chairman in 1894, and has shown a generous interest in the Institution. His name is in itself a tower of strength to the asylum, and his patronage and advice cannot fail to be of the utmost value to it. Lord Mansfield is here lending his aid in the work of curing insanity. He has elsewhere done notable service in promoting measures to prevent it, for if the recommendations of that Royal Commission on Physical Training, over which he presided with so much ability, be faithfully carried out, then we may look for some improvement in the stamina and health of our people, and some reduction in the amount of nervous and mental failure. (Loud applause.)

Lord Mansfield, in responding to the toast, said that they had had the pleasure of listening to an excellent address, an address even more eloquent than they were accustomed to look for in the neighbourhood of the Fair City of Perth. It was an address upon which one could hang a hundred pegs of reply, but, as the afternoon was already advanced, he did not intend to detain them to that extent. He had often had the pleasure of listening to Sir James' eloquence in London and elsewhere, and he often reflected with pleasure on the fact that, though he was born in other parts, yet he had received his education in the County of Perth. The education that could produce such an address was a striking honour and ornament to Trinity College, Glenalmond. (Loud applause.) He (Lord Mansfield) had the honour to be one of the governing body of Trinity College, and he



would put forward almost any boy at the present time who would make his way from Glenalmond to Murray's, and play cricket in a thorough state of health and in the most comfortable of boots. (Laughter and applause.) It was an age of progress, and Glenalmond had progressed thus far. (Laughter.) As to what Sir James had kindly said about the ceremony and the building which they saw facing them, and which had been so appropriately and successfully dedicated that day, he did not think he need enlarge further than to say they were all sure of the excellence of the work and the assiduous devotion of their friend Dr. Urquhart. The extremely successful results, which had attended the efforts of the architects of the villas, Messrs. Maclaren & Mackay, and of the contractors, and of all who had to do with the formation of these exquisite buildings, were such as induced him to say for himself and his co-Directors, with every feeling he could put into the words, that they were really and truly and sincerely grateful. (Applause.) There was no doubt that Sir James was quite right in drawing their attention to the fact that this chapel, though only a portion of the whole of their buildings, was still one which would have ameliorating effects upon those unfortunate persons whom necessity had driven within these walls; and it was a modern idea not only to afford them a safe and secure asylum from the outer world, but to do everything to aid those clever and scientific men who had their work so deeply at heart in trying to restore the afflicted. That must never be lost sight of in considering the improvements which were being made in all the asylums of the country. (Applause.) Some were inclined to ask the reason for all this expenditure on those who could not appreciate improvements. There never was a greater mistake, it was wrong from beginning to end to say that they were not appreciated. He need not dilate upon that. Whether it was a dining-room or a chapel, they were not to stand in the way of improvements for the amelioration of the unfortunate. Continuing, his Lordship said that he wished to acknowledge how pleased the Directors were to see so many of their friends and visitors there that day. It was a great encouragement to those associated with the Institution to see so many interested in it, and to hear from Dr. Urquhart that there were so many who had a distinct and vivid recollection and gratitude for the benefits conferred by the Institution; and it was comforting to know that the Asylum was at the same time quite prosperous. Of course, they could not, and they did not, wish to buy up that great Institution perpetuated in Sir James' name, the Crichton Asylum, of which he had also the honour to be a Director; but they did their best to make their patients as comfortable as possible, although they could not compete with the luxuries of Dumfries. He trusted that, whatever might be the future of

Murray's Asylum, it would be satisfactory to the country at large. (Applause.)

The Very Rev. Dean Rorison, in giving the toast of "The City and County of Perth," said it was not the least of many acts of kindness which he had received at the hands of Dr. Urquhart during his stay in Perth during the past eighteen years that he had given him the privilege of being present that day at the dedication of the beautiful Chapel—not only of being present, but of having the privilege of taking share in the service along with so many of his respected Christian brethren of the clergy of the City of Perth. He was born and bred an Episcopalian, and he hoped that thirty years of unworthy service had proved him loyal to his own Church. But he was one of those old-fashioned Episcopalians who followed out that loyalty to their own Church, and had the deepest respect for and heartiest sympathy with those great Presbyterian Churches through whose channels the main current of religious life in Scotland flowed. (Applause.) He was sure it had been a very great and deep pleasure to all of them to sit under his brother doctor of Aberdeen, Padre Robertson, and to listen to his eloquent sermon. He assured them it was a rare privilege for him, as it might be to some others of his clerical brethren, to be preached at, although probably they required much more of it. (Loud laughter.) There had not only been given to him the privilege of being present, but the idea of asking him to take part in the service had, he believed, the hearty concurrence of his parish minister, Mr. Henderson, and also of the Rev. Moderator of the Presbytery in which he was situated. (Laughter and applause.) In addition to those privileges, he had laid upon him the very high honour of proposing this toast. They were gathered together in that beautiful room, and its name they would be interested to know was the "Browne Gallery," called after the father of that eloquent and distinguished man, Sir James Crichton-Browne, who had delivered to them an address which was the most informing and eloquent he had listened to for a very long time. (Applause.) Continuing, the Dean said he belonged to that northern county whose inhabitants, if report spoke true, were not slow to proclaim the glories of Aberdeen, and were that a fitting occasion he could call up very dear recollections and expatiate upon the wonderful good things that came from the North. (Laughter.) Although he was not born in Perthshire, but in the cold, bleak, north-east of Scotland, yet it was here in Perthshire, by the banks of the Almond that he learned to love the Highlands of his native country, and he was proud to own this as the county of his adoption, the premier county of Scotland, if not of Great Britain, for duty-loving men and for beautiful ladies. (Loud applause.) It was in terms of the warmest

congratulation that he addressed them, for the most part his fellow-citizens, and informed them that they were only the previous day saved from one of the greatest calamities that could have befallen the city. He had just heard that the whole Magistracy, including their Lord Provost, who graced those proceedings that day, were nearly pitched into the Tay—(loud laughter)—because of the much-called-for improvement in their method of vehicular traffic. (Renewed laughter.) He was very proud to abide, not only in Perthshire, but in the Fair City of Perth, and although he had once or twice had the opportunity of tasting the glories which existed on the other side of the Tweed, he preferred to remain an obscure citizen of the Fair City where he had lived and where he hoped to lay his bones. (Applause.) It was with pride and affection that he gave the toast of the “County and City of Perth,” coupled with the name of that hard-working county gentleman, Mr. Macduff of Bonhard, who was reputed to have never been absent from a county meeting, and also with that of the Lord Provost, whose very name betokened his genial reign. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Macduff in reply said that the combination of the County and City as a toast in that Institution was very appropriate, for the management of the Asylum was divided between gentlemen coming from the County and the City. In former days, the County was much indebted to the management of Murray’s Asylum who kept all the patients until Murthly was built. At that sister Institution they had been very fortunate in site, in beauty of surroundings, and in the caller air so beneficial to their patients. They had also been particularly fortunate in their Superintendents, his old friend Professor M’Intosh, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Robertson, and Dr. Bruce. (Applause.) Each of them had been animated by an earnest desire to carry on the Institution successfully. They had also been fortunate in their Chairmen. He was proud to remember that his father first occupied that position, and he was succeeded by the late Colonel Drummond-Hay, the late Mr. Thomas Graham Murray, Mr. Atholl Macgregor, and last of all by their friend Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie. He would say, without fear of contradiction, that everything was done to keep up a high standard in the Perth District Asylum at Murthly.

Lord Provost Love, responding on behalf of the City, said he had no doubt the eloquent and intellectual address by Sir James would go a long way towards helping the success of this Institution in the future. They did their best in the interests of the people of the city, and they could take credit to themselves for the great progress that had been made in Perth. It might be said that they had too many irons in the fire, but he was not prepared to admit that. (Laughter.) They had that petrol car—(laughter)—with them for the moment. (Renewed

laughter.) They had had the honour of testing, or endeavouring to test, the qualities of that car, and he had pleasure in making the announcement that they were drawn from High Street to Scone and back again, and were only once off the rails. (Loud laughter.) He happened to be on the roof of the car and got a terrible shaking, and he did not think any individual there was more thankful when it came to a standstill. (Loud laughter.) He might tell them that they were not done with the car yet, and he believed, when he looked at their Treasurer, who was looking so well and jolly, that they would have further tests. (Renewed laughter and applause.) They must, in all fairness to themselves and to the builders, give the car a trial, and he was hopeful, though not quite so hopeful as he was yesterday—(laughter)—that it might turn out a success. He thought that this petrol system, like many others, was capable of improvement—(hear, hear and laughter)—and that something might be done to enable the managers to do away with that extraordinary noise and the strange oily odour which he did not care about. (Laughter.) In conclusion, his Lordship said if they were to improve Perth the people must pay for it, but again, if they managed to bring about a reduction in the death-rate, the money was not spent, but merely invested. (Applause.)

Sir Robert Pullar, in proposing the toast of "The Clergy," said that, having been so long on the Directorate of The Murray, he felt highly honoured in having been asked to propose this toast. The clergy would have been very much missed had they not appeared in the chapel that day. When he saw them there, the words of the old psalm came into his mind—

"Together such as brethren are  
In unity to dwell."

He did not think that any men dwelt more in unity than the clergy of Perth and its neighbourhood. It was very fitting that so many representatives of the clergy should be invited to come to assist in the opening of their little chapel. Had it been a great church they would have gladly filled it. The chapel was a missing link in the Institution, but now that had been remedied. The older he got the more he was convinced that they were more deeply indebted to the clergy than they imagined. Scotsmen had this advantage over Continental nations, that they could go to church not over-wearied by long hours of labour. They must be jealous of their Sunday rest, and not use it as a day of mere recreation. (Applause.) They had Saturday afternoons for recreation and Sunday for quiet. He had great sympathy with the clergy in the performance of their duties, and he thought that Scotsmen should stand by them and



strengthen their hands in every possible way. He coupled the toast with the name of his excellent friend, Mr. Landreth. (Applause.)

The Rev. P. R. Landreth said that he would in a word express, on behalf of his colleagues, their cordial appreciation of the kindness which had prompted the Directors to ask them there that day, and how much they admired the enthusiasm and the Christian zeal which had made Dr. Urquhart set about the building of that most beautiful chapel which had been dedicated to the service of God that afternoon. Sir Robert Pullar had very kindly said that the people in Scotland rallied round the clergy. He (Mr. Landreth) thought that was the verdict of history. The people of Scotland had always appreciated men. They had not been of the order of folk who found that the clergy could be relegated to the definition given by that witty English priest, Sydney Smith—men, women, and clergymen. What had made the clergy as a profession grateful to the people of Scotland had been their Christian manliness. And certainly the clergy had no reason to complain of the reception they got from the faithful people of this ancient land of Scotland, and no doubt Dr. Robertson could tell them they had followed their clergy in stricken field as faithfully as they had followed in the

“Land of brown heath and shaggy wood.”

Clergymen should learn that honest criticism was never to be resented, but to be welcomed—when it was kindly criticism; when it was the criticism that realised that the minister of Jesus Christ was following the highest of all professions in the humblest of all ways; that he was a witness for God and for eternity; that he, amid all the shifting ways and dark and devious courses of mankind, was keeping on high the torch of truth and knowledge. The clergy of Scotland had long been educationists. Such a keen critic as Buckle admitted that they were the champions of the people against tyranny, that they did represent the people in their best mind and in their highest aspirations, and that therefore the clergy in turn received the gratitude and support of the nation. They all appreciated the magnificent oration delivered that day by Sir James Crichton-Browne—(applause)—and they welcomed that rare gift of giving form to the idea in the vehicle of chaste and literary expression. They had not forgotten that there was such a thing as style. They still appreciated a Cicero. Speaking for himself and his fellow-ministers, they had also listened with pleasure and profit to that brilliant and incisive sermon delivered by one whom they all honoured and were proud to see amongst them that day—the Chaplain of the Highland Brigade. (Applause.) He did not think it was a good thing for ministers to go about as if they were

apologising for their existence, and he welcomed the manly courage and eloquence of Dr. Robertson, an ornament and leading figure in the Presbytery of Perth. He responded with great heartiness to the toast so well proposed by Sir Robert Pullar, the grand old man of Perth, whom they were glad to see there with his natural force unabated and his clear eye undimmed.

Mr. John Thomas, in proposing the health of the chairman, said the toast was one which did not require any remarks, but he might be allowed to say one or two words. There was no man better known or respected throughout broad Scotland. (Applause.) No Royal Commission or Parliamentary Committee, referring to affairs in Scotland, would be complete without his Lordship. (Hear, hear.) So much for his services to the country, but now in regard to Perthshire. His Lordship's attention to the county business was well known, but it did not stop there, because in all matters of detail connected with parochial business he was equally attentive. No man paid more attention to the Institutions of Perth and Perthshire than Lord Mansfield, and the reason of his success was that he possessed—what very few men possessed—a determination to master details. His Lordship did not merely attend a meeting; he must know what that meeting was about. Time was when mastery of details was considered the work of the plodder, but they knew it now by the name of genius, and in Lord Mansfield that genius was to be found. (Applause.) To no part of his Lordship's duties was more attention paid than to the business of Murray's Asylum. The Directors and all connected with that Institution might well be proud to have such a man as Chairman. Long may Lord Mansfield live. (Applause.)

Lord Mansfield, in returning thanks, said it gave him great pleasure to be there that day, as it always afforded him pleasure to have anything to do with that well-managed Institution. (Applause.) When he said well-managed, he referred to those who had the practical and complete direction of everything there. He trusted that this function would be for the benefit of the Institution. The more Institutions such as this were known throughout the country, the better it was for the Institutions and for the country. (Applause.) He did not wish to sit down without asking them to drink one more toast. He had only to mention the name of the individual to ensure a very hearty response. He proposed the health of Dr. Urquhart. (Loud applause.)

Dr. Urquhart, in reply, said he would desire to say only three words—"I thank you," and to conclude there, but he felt strongly at that time that he should make fuller recognition of the sympathy he had met with since coming among them. He would say that his

coming was the work primarily of Sir James Crichton-Browne. He was then engaged in the County of Warwick, with no intention of returning to his native wilds, but one day five-and-twenty years ago he had a telegram from Sir James asking him to go to Perth and meet the Directors of Murray's Royal Asylum. He came, was kindly received, and there he remained. (Applause.) He acknowledged, with all humbleness and gratitude and sincerity, the many many kindnesses which he had received, and if proof were needed, after all these years, that great assemblage of his friends that day was sufficient evidence. (Applause.)



## HISTORICAL

James Murray's Royal Asylum, which was opened in 1827, is one of the seven Royal Asylums of Scotland. At first it was of moderate size, but in 1836 it was deemed necessary to enlarge the institution towards the north, and to add to the estate. For a time prior to the opening of the Perth District Asylum at Murthly, it was very much overcrowded, as many as 205 patients having been resident, while the accommodation was calculated at 80 beds. In 1864, therefore, The Murray entered on an altered phase of existence; and, dealing exclusively with private patients in conformity with the Charter of Incorporation, the numbers were greatly reduced. Opportunity occurred in 1875 to begin the reconstruction of the fabric of the building, and that reconstruction has been in progress till the present time as circumstances permitted. It is now practically complete; but, besides the work done in this direction, many additions have been made. Notably, in 1887, two hospital wings were built—the first of these special hospitals erected. The Institution has been developed as a central asylum, with succursal houses for those requiring separate treatment or suffering from less pronounced mental disorder. The mansion-house of Kincarrathie has thus been in use for nineteen years, and the seaside residence at Elie has been held by the Directors since 1893. The two villas completed during the present year, with Mount Tabor Cottage, afford an increase of accommodation, also approximating in so far as possible the conditions of domestic life. As it is now requisite in the modern treatment of consumption to have specially constructed sanatoria for dealing with these cases, The Murray has been equipped with two buildings for this purpose.

## THE VILLAS

The architects for the villas were Messrs. Maclaren & Mackay, and the problem submitted to them was the accommodation of patients of the higher class, who might have the advantage of private rooms and yet continue under active treatment. The rooms for these patients had not been increased in number since the Institution was enlarged in 1839, and it became evident to the Directors that arrangements must be made for them in order to develop the Asylum for the further relief of the poorer classes. Messrs. Maclaren & Mackay have carried out the instructions of the Directors admirably, and have erected the villas within the estimated cost. The plan includes a central hall for common use, private rooms opening directly from it, while others are contained in a wing approached by a short corridor. The bedrooms are similarly grouped round a hall on



the first floor. Exclusive of household furnishings, these houses have cost about £2,200 each. The contractors were:—Messrs. Fraser & Morton, masons; Messrs. D. & J. Anderson, joiners; Mr. D. M'Lauchlan, slater; Messrs. Frew, Watson, & Co., plumbers; Mr. D. Campbell, plasterer; and Mr. C. Alexander, glazier.

### THE CHAPEL

The following are the names of the Chaplains who have served at the Murray:—

The Rev. John Bell,	...	...	...	1838-1849
The Rev. William Murdoch,	...	...	...	1849-1858
The Rev. John Paton,	...	...	...	1858-1859
The Rev. Robert James Craig,	...	...	...	1859-1860
The Rev. John F. Thomson,	...	...	...	1860-1861
The Rev. John Moodie,	...	...	...	1861-1863
The Rev. William D. Knowles,	...	...	...	1863-1897
The Rev. John W. Henderson,	...	...	...	1897-

The New Chapel contrasts well with the villas, the whole group being set on a terrace which has been extended to the north of the Asylum, and which commands a fine view over the fields of the farm to the valley of the Tay and the mountains beyond. The half-timbered villas, with oriel windows, flank the Chapel, of which the lower part is whinstone rubble and the upper part is red sandstone. A square clock tower, over which a belfry is to be erected, contains the vestibule, which passes under the organ gallery. The interior of the building is finished with panelling of Californian red wood and plastered walls. The ceiling is of ordinary unstained red wood, relieved by arches of Californian red wood, the whole taking the form of barrel vaulting. The brackets supporting these arches are inscribed with the names of the successive Chairmen of the Asylum; while the ridge plate is perforated for ventilation and decorated with shields bearing the Murray arms. The chancel arch is supported by detached pillars, and the apse is formed of ashlar worked red sandstone, the ceiling being of plaster work, with ribs resting on carved brackets. It is interesting to note that the Communion table has been presented by Miss Malcom in memory of her father, the first physician of the Asylum; and the central window by Mrs. Haultain in memory of her father, Dr. Lauder Lindsay, who was Dr. Malcom's successor. The pulpit and reading desk were the gifts of assistant medical officers who have served in the Murray. A suitably inscribed copper door of repoussé work closes the recess in which the Communion plate is kept. The chancel furnishings have been made by Messrs. Justice, of Dundee, in the Jacobean style; the windows of the apse are from the studio

## *Excelsior*

of Mr. Strachan, of Aberdeen; and the copper repoussé door is by Mr. T. Whyte, under whose supervision all the works have been carried out from the plans of Dr. Urquhart, who also designed the furnishings. The subscriptions, etc., amount to about £750, so that the chapel is opened practically free of debt. The lower part of the building was erected in great measure by the patients and workmen at the Asylum, the contractors being:—Mr. M. Macdonald, mason; Mr. W. Rutherford, joiner; Mr. D. M'Lauchlan, slater; Mr. C. Alexander, glazier; and Mr. Miller, plumber.

### THE RECREATION HALL

Another important improvement has been completed in the interior of the main building, a new recreation room having been constructed with fixed stage for concerts, etc., and attached dining-rooms, still-room, etc. The ceiling of the recreation room has been finished in elaborate plaster work by Mr. Mackay, of Mill Street, from designs by Messrs. Maclaren & Mackay; the ventilating openings in Cairene work being the production of the Fechney School. The ceiling is supported on ventilating pillars, by which it is expected that the air will be constantly renewed without draughts, either hot or cold.

### FINANCIAL

The Treasurers report as follows:—

Mason and Cement, ...	...	...	...	£404	5	1
Joiner, ...	...	...	...	109	14	5
Slater, ...	...	...	...	55	2	7
Plumber, ...	...	...	...	16	2	2
Glazier, ...	...	...	...	14	12	9
Stained Glass Windows,	...	...	...	51	0	0
Plasterer, ...	...	...	...	44	2	6
Smith, ...	...	...	...	18	4	5
Furnishings, ...	...	...	...	48	11	10
				<hr/>		
				£761	15	9
Subscriptions, } to 15th Oct., 1904, {			£731	8	3	
Interest, }			23	19	1	
				<hr/>		
				755	7	4
				<hr/>		
Deficiency,	...	...	...	£6	8	5
				<hr/>		

MACKENZIE & DICKSON,  
75 George Street, Perth.

*From the PERTHSHIRE CONSTITUTIONAL, 3rd October, 1904,*

There are few Institutions regarding which the general public have more reason to be proud than James Murray's Royal Asylum, the practical management of which has been in the hands of Dr. Urquhart, the Physician Superintendent, for the last twenty-five years. It was fitting that the semi-jubilee of Dr. Urquhart's connection with this well-managed Institution should be marked by the formal opening of large extensions to the Asylum, and by the dedication of the beautiful little Chapel, which has been erected within the grounds. Sir James Crichton-Browne, whose brilliant speech won the admiration of all who had the good fortune to listen to its delivery, pictured in graphic language the remarkable change that has been made in the treatment of those unfortunate people who are mentally afflicted within the last century. Nowhere has the enlightened policy developed more quickly than at The Murray, especially during the twenty-five years the affairs of this Institution have been guided by Dr. Urquhart. The time is not so far distant when The Murray was not the bright attractive place it is to-day. In the old days, Asylums were little better than prisons, and the surroundings were equally depressing. Now the object of the Directors and the Physician Superintendent is to bring the patients to feel that they are enjoying in a great measure the conditions of domestic life. Everything is done to raise the afflicted from the morbid thoughts that depress them, and so brighten and enliven their lives that they may thereby regain their mental equilibrium. Dr. Urquhart has effectually, yet unostentatiously, done valuable service to suffering humanity during these twenty-five years, and none can appreciate this fact more than the "old stagers" referred to by Mr. Ritchie in his letter of apology for absence, and the grateful patients who have been restored to society by the skilful treatment which they received while at The Murray. It was fitting under these circumstances, therefore, that the dedication of this Chapel should take place on the occasion of Dr. Urquhart's jubilee. It may be regarded as a personal memorial. It was designed by the Doctor, of whom it might have been said, if he had not already won so eminent distinction in the medical profession, that he had mistaken his profession, which should have been that of an architect. Further, the whole cost of the erection of the Chapel has been defrayed by present and former patients and friends of the Institution, and it has been opened free of debt. The name of Dr. Urquhart will be associated with this tiny sacred edifice so long as it withstands the changes of time, and it is a memorial that is well-fitted to commemorate twenty-five years of devoted service to the betterment and recovery of the mentally deranged.

*From the PERTHSHIRE ADVERTISER, 30th September, 1904.*

It is now seventy-seven years since Murray's Royal Asylum was first opened, through the generosity of James Murray, to give safety and succour to those mentally deranged, and during all that time, particularly during the last twenty-five years, representing the period Dr. Urquhart has been at the head of the Institution, it has stood for progress, and to-day furnishes an example of the transformation which, in the course of the last century, has been effected through the application of medical science in the treatment of the hapless sufferers whose infirmity and sufferings previously were increased and intensified tenfold by the ignorance and superstition which regarded their condition as a sort of demoniacal possession, and meted out treatment accordingly. All this and much more was emphasised yesterday by Sir James Crichton-Browne, at the luncheon which followed the dedication of the new Chapel which has been erected in connection with the Institution ; in itself, as Sir James pointed out, not only a memorial of the good work done by the Institution (many of the subscriptions having come from patients and friends, rich and poor, in grateful acknowledgment of benefits received), but also significant of the circumstance that in the new *regime* religious influences as well as moral treatment were relied upon and trusted to play their part in "ministering to the mind diseased," even though that disease might in part have been brought about by the decay of faith. Sir James, it may be added, paid a fine compliment to the noble work done by the Institution, and with true appreciation and discrimination rightly ascribed the credit for the same to its present head, Dr. Urquhart, who that day had been connected with the Institution for twenty-five years, and of whose qualities of head and heart Sir James had many fine things to say.







Accession no.

James Murray's Royal  
Asylum (Perth, Scotland)

Excelsior: being the  
Call no. AC 461

Hist 526

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